

# Saguaro National Park

## Trails Plan News Brief

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



September 2005

Dear Friends,

I know that many of you have been anticipating the start of the trails planning process at Saguaro National Park. I appreciate your patience while we progress through the general management planning process. We are now at a point where trails planning can begin.

In this news brief, I would like to give you a general overview of how the process works, how it fits in with the general management planning process, what the timeline will be, and what we are doing in the meantime to help improve and maintain a sustainable trail system at Saguaro National Park. Although we will not start soliciting public comment until early next year, public involvement will be

a very important part of the trails planning process. We want to hear your ideas and concerns so that we can address the issues facing Saguaro National Park and the park visitors across the country that use our trails. In addition to public scoping on the plan, we will continue to gather input and keep you informed through newsletters, meetings, and a draft of the plan that will be open to public review and comment.

Again, we sincerely value your interest in the trails planning process, and thank you for your time and patience.

Sarah Craighead  
Superintendent, Saguaro National Park



The General Management Plan (GMP) is an overarching or “umbrella” plan that provides comprehensive direction and a foundation for decision making over a 15-20 year time frame. The plan is deeply grounded in the park’s enabling legislation, and contains the park mission, mission goals, as well as resource conditions and visitor experiences that are to be achieved and maintained over time.

Tiering off of the foundation and direction established in the GMP, implementation plans provide more site-specific direction and detailed actions needed to achieve resource conditions and visitor experiences described in the GMP. Implementation plans are typically focused on a particular park program or area, and include details such as site design, specific treatments for resources, or types and locations of interpretive exhibits and signs.

Since the general management plan sets the overall vision and strategy for the future of the park, it should be completed before more detailed implementation plans are started. However, if there is a pressing need for an implementation plan to begin prior to a general management plan being completed, an implementation plan process could begin while the general management plan is still in draft form and the overall direction has been agreed upon. Therefore, an implementation plan can begin after the general management plan preferred alternative is chosen.



## Ways We're Moving Forward



### Establish Partnerships with Organized Trail Groups

The park is exploring ways of partnering with various organizations to help with the design, construction and maintenance of trails like the Arizona trail. Seeking partnerships with the USFS will also be important aspect of the

### Broaden Volunteer Base/Work

The park is exploring ways to expand upon a well organized and trained volunteer base. One option is to provide training for volunteer trail crew leaders so that they can properly instruct other volunteers in trail reconstruction and maintenance.

### Utilize New Trail Building Techniques

The park is diversifying its trail design, building, and maintenance philosophy. As trails are reconstructed, reroutes will be considered, as will the increased use of wood instead of rock for trail structures. Trail crews will also work closely with the park’s vegetation specialists to revegetate areas disturbed during trail construction.

### Continue to do Maintenance and Seek Trails Funding During the Trails Planning Process

Given a limited park service budget, the park will continue to prioritize trail reconstruction and maintenance while working with volunteers and partnering, as the funding and planning process allows.

trails planning process to ensure trail connectivity and maintenance.



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PLANNING TIMELINE		
General Management Plan		Trails Plan
Alternatives Developed	SPRING 2004	
Public Meetings & Newsletter	SPRING-SUMMER 2005	
Preferred Alternative Selected	FALL 2005	
Internal Draft Plan/ Environmental Impact Statement	SPRING 2006	Scoping/Data Collection
Draft Plan/Environmental Impact Statement for Public Review	SUMMER 2006	Public Involvement, Alternatives Developed
Final Plan/Environmental Impact Statement for Public Review	WINTER 2006	Draft Trails Plan for Public Review
Printed Final Plan/ Environmental Impact Statement	SPRING 2007	Final Trails Plan



Meet Our New Trails  
Supervisor

Jeremy Curtis, new Trails Supervisor at Saguaro National Park, was born and raised in Idaho Falls, Idaho and began trail work as a volunteer on trail crews in Yellowstone National Park. Working on backcountry crews and spending the summers in Yellowstone was a wonderful learning experience. Jeremy was soon hired at Yellowstone and began his career as a seasonal trail crew member. He has worked on crews in Big Bend National Park, Texas, City of Rocks National Reserve, Idaho, Chiricahua National Monument, Arizona, Saguaro National Park, Arizona, and spent the last few years leading the trails program at Buffalo National River in Arkansas.

Jeremy, his wife, and two children, who are true outdoor enthusiasts are pleased to be back in the southwest and at Saguaro National Park. There are many opportunities for volunteers, youth groups, and the trail crew to work together to make the Saguaro trail system a great visitor experience and Jeremy looks forward to seeing everyone out on the trail.

Series of log retainer checks with crush rock materials to fill a rutted ditch



Installation of log retaining checks to retain fill materials in rutted section of trail



Preparing footing for installation of log retaining check

